

CLAIMS

We claim:

*sel
al*
1. A user interface for use with a computer system, said user
2 interface comprising:

3 selecting means for selecting from a list of predetermined
4 applications and outputting a selection signal;

5 a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the list
6 of predetermined applications; and

7 conflict checking means, coupled to the selecting means and
8 the conflict map, for receiving the selection signal, determining
9 from the selection signal and the conflict map whether a potential
10 conflict could occur, and outputting a display message if a
11 determination is made that a potential conflict could occur.

12 2. The user interface of claim 1, wherein said selecting
13 means comprises a remote control, said user interface further
14 comprises:

15 an input device interface, for receiving signals from the
16 remote control and converting the signals from the remote control
17 into command signals.

1 3. The user interface of claim 2, wherein said remote control
2 comprises an infrared remote control and said input interface
3 device further comprises:

4 converting means for converting infrared remote control
5 signals to USB signals, said converting means receiving an infrared
6 remote control signal, determining context of use of the infrared
7 remote control signal, and generating a corresponding USB signal to
8 communicate the infrared remote control signal to an intended
9 device.

10 4. A method of selecting among a predetermined plurality of
11 applications to run on a computer system for presentation on a
display screen, comprising the steps of:

12 selecting from a list of predetermined applications and
13 outputting a selection signal,

14 receiving the selection signal and determining from the
15 selection signal and a conflict map containing a list of conflicts
16 between the list of predetermined applications whether a potential
17 conflict could occur, and

18 outputting a display message if a determination is made that
19 a potential conflict could occur.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of outputting a
2 display message further comprises the step of:

3 prompting a user to select another application if a
4 determination is made that a potential conflict could occur.

1 6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the
steps of:

 determining whether a television or a computer monitor has
been connected to the computer system, and

 selecting hardware in a video output device in the computer
system to engage alternate video ports to produce a optimal quality
output in response to said determining step.

1 7. A method for selecting one of at least two predetermined
2 device application modes in a television set-top system, comprising
3 the steps of:

4 selecting a first device application mode from a predetermined
5 menu of device application modes, which menu includes at least two
6 such predetermined device application modes,

7 determining whether a second of said at least two such
8 predetermined device application modes is active, and

A3
Any
con's
10 initiating television presentation of activities relating to
said first device application mode.

1 8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 halting the second of said at least two such predetermined
4 device application modes upon initiation of the first device
application mode.

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10 9. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the
step of:

minimizing the second of said at least two such predetermined
device application modes upon initiation of the first device
application mode.

1 10. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 presenting images relating to the second of said at least two
4 such predetermined device application modes in a selected window.

1 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said selected
2 window is subordinated in a web browser environment.

1 12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 presenting a control panel for setting operating parameters
4 for the second of said at least two such predetermined device
5 application modes within a selected window.

1 13. The method according to claim 7, wherein step of
2 selecting comprises the step of selecting with a remote control
3 device.

1 14. The method according to claim 7, wherein step of
2 selecting comprises the step of selecting through an on-screen
3 emulation of a remote control device.

1 15. The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of
2 selecting is made by clicking a mouse over an active portion of a
3 screen image of a control panel image.

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16. A set-top system comprising:

a television for producing images according to one or more application modes;

4 a device in communication with said television, said device
5 containing circuitry for implementing at least two predetermined
6 application modes; and

7 a controller for selecting an application mode,

wherein said device is configured to determine activation status of at least a single non-selected application mode when a particular other activation mode is selected.

17. The set-top system of claim 16, wherein said controller further comprises a selecting means for selecting from a list of predetermined applications and outputting a selection signal, and
4 said controller further comprises:

5 a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the
6 list of predetermined applications; and

7 conflict checking means, coupled to the selecting means
8 and the conflict map, for receiving the selection signal,
9 determining from the selection signal and the conflict map
10 whether a potential conflict could occur, and outputting a

11 display message if a determination is made that a potential
12 conflict could occur.

1 18. The set-top system of claim 17, wherein said selecting
2 means comprises a remote control, said user interface further
3 comprises:

4 an input device interface, for receiving signals from the
5 remote control and converting the signals from the remote control
6 into command signals.

7 19. The set-top system of claim 18, wherein said remote
8 control comprises an infrared remote control and said input
9 interface device further comprises:

10 converting means for converting infrared remote control
11 signals to USB signals, said converting means receiving an infrared
12 remote control signal, determining context of use of the infrared
13 remote control signal, and generating a corresponding USB signal to
14 communicate the infrared remote control signal to an intended
15 device.

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